

**HAMPTON BEACH VILLAGE DISTRICT
MEETING
December 12, 2012**

Present

Chuck Rage, Chairman & Commissioner
Robert Ladd, Commissioner
Steve LaBranche, Treasurer

Chairman Rage called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Old Business

Mr. Ladd acknowledged a generous contribution to the Hampton Beach Village District from the George Ashworth Trust.

Chairman Rage said the Selectmen will be meeting on Monday, December 17th, to discuss the petition made by a few residents to allow White's Island to secede from the Precinct. He said this petition was brought forth by a small minority. Chairman Rage said there were 42 signatures on the petition and only 11 are voters in the district. Chairman Rage said he has talked to many homeowners and they are very upset about this petition. The Precinct benefits the whole beach and single family residents can get an exemption. Property values are also increased due to the beach events and venue. Chairman Rage urged residents to join the Commissioners in speaking out against the petition.

Mr. Ladd noted that 27 signers of the petition live out of state. Mr. Ladd said the beach is on the edge of becoming incredible and the petition is counter-productive to all the work that has been done. Mr. Ladd said he could not understand how a person who owns properties at the beach and rents them out every summer can say the Precinct has no affect on their success. Mr. Ladd noted that the Selectmen can allow the petition which would then have to go before the annual meeting of the Precinct. If the Selectmen don't allow it, that is the end of it. Selectman Rick Griffin said he believed the Selectmen would be glad to vote on this at Monday night's meeting or it could wait if the Commissioners so desire.

Eileen Daboul said she has been a resident of Hampton Beach for 40 years. It has taken a long time to bring the beach to where it is now. Many residents have put in free labor for many years. It is very difficult to see someone try to destroy all this. Ms. Daboul said she plans to insist the Board of Selectmen give this very serious thought.

Selectman Michael Pierce said the Selectmen have said they will be making a decision on this on December 27th, so it is possible some residents are planning on that date. Chairman Rage said at least a lot of information can be given to the Selectmen on the 17th.

Richard Reniere, Moderator, discussed the new regulations concerning Voter ID.

Ed McDonald, Epping Avenue, said he did not sign the petition, but he would be in favor of it. The entire Town of Hampton gets the benefit of what happens at the beach and the cost should be spread throughout the entire town. Mr. McDonald said the Precinct really does not need to exist anymore. Everything could be done by the Town. Mr. McDonald said the arbitrary nature of the boundaries concern him. Mr. Griffin said if there was not a Precinct the "music would stop". The people uptown would be unlikely to vote for funding the activities at the beach. Mr. McDonald suggested that the Chamber could pay for the activities. John Kane, Marketing Director, said the Chamber does not have the funds to do that.

Mr. McDonald asked if property owners in the Precinct will be allowed to vote. Chairman Rage replied that they must be a registered voter. Mr. LaBranche said this also means you can't be registered anywhere else. Mr. McDonald said the business owners should be part of the Precinct even if they don't live there.

Moved by Commissioner Ladd, seconded by Chairman Rage, that the Precinct appear before the Board of Selectmen on Monday, December 17, 2012 to oppose the petition for secession from the Precinct.

Vote: 2 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ladd said he hoped when this issue was resolved one way or the other, all residents can come together.

Chairman Rage said he has reached out to the owners of businesses where questionable items are sold. They have agreed to have all these products in the rear of their stores and to ID more effectively. Chairman Rage said they cannot be forced out of business and the Commissioners will continue to work with them. If this does not work, the legislature will be approached.

Mr. Kane presented the New Years Eve event poster. Fireworks will begin at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Kane also presented the full page ad that will be in the State of New Hampshire brochure.

Mr. Kane said he wished to acknowledge a resident who loves the beach, Ann Tobin, and hopes she will have a speedy recovery.

New Business

Chairman Rage said he had talked to Kristen of RS Fireworks and she will be presenting a proposal for next year.

Mr. Ladd noted that the groundbreaking for the beach fire station took place this afternoon.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Ladd, seconded by Chairman Rage, to approve the Minutes of November 14, 2012.

Vote: 2 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

John Gebhart said the buoy that was donated has been put in place. Vic Lessard was a great help and deserves thanks.

Closing Comments

There were no closing comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary